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Wednesday 7 September 2005

URGENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kojo Annan
(Son of UN Secretary-General)

We represent Mr Kojo Annan and are authorised to make this statement on his behalf.

Kojo Annan is the son of the UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan. We refer to the Fourth Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) into the United Nations Oil-For-Food Programme released today.

Our client is very pleased that the IIC Report has exonerated his father, Kofi Annan, and again confirmed that the Secretary-General had no knowledge whatsoever of Cotecna's bid for the UN contract. Our client says *"My father is a man of impeccable character who has worked tirelessly for the United Nations for many years. His integrity is beyond reproach. I had no doubt that the Report would completely exonerate him of any suggestion of wrongdoing and am pleased to see that it does exactly that."*

The IIC Report contains no evidence from any individual in the procurement department to say that our client contacted them to discuss Cotecna's bid for the contract. The so called "evidence" of our client's contacts with the procurement department is flimsy at best and rests largely on our client's relationship with people he has known since childhood. Our client says:

"I have never spoken with anyone in the procurement department about Cotecna's bid for the contract. I never attempted to influence the awarding of the contract and the IIC's report confirms that Cotecna was awarded the contract on the basis of its submission of the lowest bid."

Our client regrets using his father's name to obtain a discount for a car and is sorry for any embarrassment this may have caused the Secretary-General but emphasises that his father had absolutely no involvement in the purchase of the car. As the IIC concludes, the purchase of the car had absolutely nothing to do with the Oil-for-Food Programme.

Our client says:

"As to using my father's name to get a discount on a car, I was young and I just didn't think it through. It was an indiscretion but one for which I hope I can be

forgiven. Obviously my purchase of a car had nothing to do with the Oil for Food Program, which the IIC Report conclusively establishes.”

Kojo Annan’s libel claim against The Sunday Times in London’s High Court will continue, where he looks forward to a full and fair hearing before a Judge and Jury early next year.

Any enquiries regarding this matter should be put in writing and referred to our client’s London lawyers:

Simon Smith

Partner

Schillings

Telephone: 020 7453 2500

Fax: 020 7453 2600

Mobile: 07712183996

Email: simon.smith@schillings.co.uk

Clarissa Amato

Schillings

Telephone: 020 7453 2500

Fax: 020 7453 2600

Mobile: 07963 915213

Email: clarissa.amato@schillings.co.uk

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